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BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT

on the

Health of the Borough

for the year

1965



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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH

FOR THE YEAR

1965

by

D.J.N. McNAB, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health

and

CLEMENT WILLARD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.  
Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing  
Superintendent

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1965

Councillor R. Affleck (Chairman) (January - December)

The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Mrs. I.A. Stevenson  
(January - December)

Councillor J.R. Bell (January - April)

Alderman Miss. E.I. Padwick (January - December)

Councillor K.L. Smith (January - December)

Councillor M. Lynk (January - December)

Councillor Miss C. Sharp (January - December)

Councillor T. Staniforth (January - December)

Councillor L.W. Claxton (January - December)

Councillor Barrington Myers (January - December)

Councillor W.C.F. Horsford (May to December)

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

D.J.N. McNAB, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Also Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge and Borough of Lymington and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire

Address: Druitt Buildings, Christchurch.  
Telephone No: Christchurch 900.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

CLEMENT WILLARD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

A.F. Saunders, Cert. S.I.B.  
D.J. Cartridge, Cert. S.I.B.

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1965

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

I submit for your information and consideration my nineteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Borough.

As an integral part of this Report there follows the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector on those sections of the work of the Health Department with which he is specially concerned.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS:

The Ancient Borough of Christchurch lies in the south west corner of Hampshire at the confluence of the Hampshire Avon and the Stour, two rivers of vastly different character. With its coastal situation, its extensive land locked tidal harbour, and the high ground to the west breaking the full force of the south westerly gales, the town has a pleasantly equable climate, and this in conjunction with the attractions of the nearby New Forest make it an especially favoured area in which to live.

The population has therefore risen steadily, particularly in the last 20 years when there has been an increase of 10,870 - a rise of 61%. The rise has been largely by immigration and in fact in the first 10 years of the quinquennium births exceeded deaths by 612 but in the second ten, deaths exceeded births by 194, giving a net increase in the indigenous population of only 418. In only three of the past ten years have births exceeded deaths, a clear indication of an ageing population.

There is a wide variety of industry in the area with new industries filling vacancies created by the departure of contracting businesses. The general employment outlook is favourable.



RAINFALL FOR 1965:

			<u>Ins.</u>				<u>Ins.</u>
January..	..	..	3.20	July ..	..	..	2.61
February.	..	..	.19	August..	..	..	2.03
March ..	..	...	2.56	September	..	..	3.44
April ..	..	..	1.35	October.	..	..	.63
May ..	..	..	1.24	November	..	..	3.98
June ..	..	..	1.68	December	..	..	4.09

TOTAL: 27 inches.

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area: 4,807 acres (Census 1961)

Population: Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1965: 28,630.

Number of inhabited houses: 10,320.

Rateable value: 31.3.65; £1,526,899.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £5990. 8s, 5d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1965: (as supplied by the Registrar-General)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Borough of</u> <u>Christchurch</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales</u>
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LIVE BIRTHS:

Total	379	191	188
Legitimate	352	176	176
Illegitimate	27	15	12

LIVE BIRTH RATE: (Comparability factor 1.22)

per 1,000 population ..	..	..	13.2	18.1
after application of comparability factor			16.1	

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Borough of</u> <u>Christchurch</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales</u>
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ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS:

per cent of total live births	..	..	7.1	
-------------------------------	----	----	-----	--

STILL BIRTHS:

Total ..	..	8	4	4
Legitimate ..	..	8	4	4
Illegitimate ..	..	-	-	-

STILL BIRTH RATE:

per 1,000 total (live & still) births	.	20.7	15.7
---------------------------------------	---	------	------

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS: 387.

INFANT DEATHS:

Deaths under one year of age

Total ..	..	7	2	5
Legitimate ..	..	6	2	4
Illegitimate ..	..	1	-	1

Deaths under 4 weeks of age

Total ..	..	7	2	5
Legitimate ..	..	6	2	4
Illegitimate ..	..	1	-	1

Deaths under one week of age

Total ..	..	7	2	5
Legitimate ..	..	6	2	4
Illegitimate ..	..	1	-	1

INFANT MORTALITY RATE:

per 1,000 live births - Total		18.5	19.0
per 1,000 live births - Legitimate		17.0	
per 1,000 live births - Illegitimate		37.0	



	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Borough of Christchurch</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
<u>NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
(Deaths under 4 weeks)					
per 1,000 live births .. ..				18.5	13.0
<u>EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
(Deaths under 1 week)					
per 1,000 live births .. ..				18.5	
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
(Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined)					
per 1,000 total (live & still) births				38.8	
<u>MATERNAL DEATHS:</u> (Including abortion)				Nil	
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
per 1,000 total (live & still) births				Nil	0.25
<u>DEATHS:</u>	415	213	202		
<u>DEATH RATE:</u> (Comparability factor 0.68)					
per 1,000 population .. ..				14.5	11.5
after application of comparability factor				9.8	
<u>SPECIAL CAUSES:</u>					
Death rate per 1,000 population					
Tuberculosis .. ..				0.07	0.05
Cancer (lung and bronchus)				0.77	0.55
Cancer (all causes)				2.65	2.23

CAUSES OF DEATH:Males Females

1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ..	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other .. ..	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease .. ..	-	-
4. Diphtheria.. ..	-	-
5. Whooping Cough .. ..	-	-
6. Meningococcal infection .. ..	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .. ..	-	-
8. Measles .. ..	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach. ..	-	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	17	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.. ..	-	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.. ..	-	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	24	20
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.. ..	-	3
16. Diabetes .. ..	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	25	42
18. Coronary disease, angina .. ..	57	35
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	2	1
20. Other heart disease .. ..	16	29
21. Other circulatory disease .. ..	16	18
22. Influenza .. ..	-	-
23. Pneumonia .. ..	11	11
24. Bronchitis.. ..	12	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	1	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	4	3
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis .. ..	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .. ..	2	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	-	-
31. Congenital malformations .. ..	-	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	16
33. Motor vehicle accidents .. ..	3	1
34. All other accidents .. ..	3	3
35. Suicide .. ..	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	-	-

Total (all causes)

213 202

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS:

Year	Population	Borough of Christchurch			England and Wales		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1929	8,728	49.0	18.6	11.1	74	16.3	13.4
1932	11,250	62.5	17.0	11.3	65	15.3	12.0
1936	13,080	53.1	15.8	12.2	59	14.8	12.1
1940	15,330	24.7	13.1	12.8	55	14.6	14.3
1944	14,810	30.0	22.3	14.2	46	17.6	11.6
1948	19,190	16.0	16.1	11.25	34	17.9	10.8
1952	21,290	21.9	14.9	11.03	27.6	15.3	11.3
1956	23,140	22.6	13.4	13.3	23.8	15.7	11.7
1960	25,580	25.8	13.6	14.3	21.7	17.1	11.5
1961	26,110	20.7	12.9	13.9	21.4	17.4	12.0
1962	26,640	11.9	12.6	15.1	21.4	18.0	11.9
1963	27,180	18.2	14.2	15.2	20.9	18.2	12.2
1964	28,000	7.8	13.6	13.5	20.0	18.4	11.3
1965	28,630	18.5	13.2	14.5	19.0	18.1	11.5

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE:

The general incidence of notifiable disease was low.

Under normal conditions this would have been a "Measles year" but the relatively high incidence of Measles in 1964 reduced this year's outbreak.

An outbreak of Dysentery occurred, principally among children attending the infant schools at Highcliffe and Somerford. Measures were taken to reinforce the hygienic precautions at all schools and, thanks to the wholehearted co-operation of all concerned, the outbreak subsided.

A case of Typhoid Fever occurred in a young woman who returned home ill from a Greek cruise ship, where she worked as a beautician. The illness was probably contracted in a foreign port. Her mother was employed in a local food shop and it was necessary to keep her off work, and to make up her pay, until the danger of infection had passed.

For the sixth successive year no case of Poliomyelitis was notified.

Disease	Number notified
Measles.. ..	173
Whooping Cough..	3
Pneumonia ..	9
Scarlet Fever ..	2
Dysentery ..	54
Typhoid Fever ..	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1

#### TUBERCULOSIS:

		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
No. on Register at 31.12.65..	..	156	109	17	21	303
No. of new notifications	.. ..	1	-	-	-	1
Transfers from other areas	.. ..	5	1	-	-	6
Deaths.. ..	.. ..	1	-	-	-	1

#### LUNG CANCER:

22 deaths were attributed to lung cancer, of whom 5 were women. 10 were in persons under the age of 65, 2 under 55. In this Borough 96 persons have now died of this self inflicted disease in the past five years, and this contrasts with the 26 who have died as the result of motor accidents over the same period and whose deaths appear to cause infinitely more concern.

The national death rate from "smokers cancer" continues to rise each year and has trebled over the last 20 years. 26,399 persons died in 1965, an increase of 1,128 over the previous year and in men by far the largest single cause of death from cancer - representing 38.7% of all male cancer deaths. Lung cancer deaths have now reached almost 5% of all deaths; such a high proportion of deaths from a supremely unpleasant and largely avoidable disease ought to cause more public alarm than it does. The current extension of cigarette coupon schemes might perhaps be usefully employed in providing funeral benefits.



## FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES:

In August, and again in November, the Minister of Health issued strongly worded statements in which he urged all local health authorities to make arrangements for the fluoridation of water supplies. In the Minister's view fluoridation is "completely safe", it will "combat the wholly excessive amount of dental decay in this country" and "in future generations the whole community, adults as well as children will benefit".

In the light of these appeals the Council again considered fluoridation, but again rejected it.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA:

### 1. Laboratory facilities.

The Borough is very well served by the Public Health Laboratory at Boscombe, which is under the direction of Dr. G.J.G. King.

The following list of specimens from the area, examined at the Laboratory during the year, has been kindly supplied by the Director.

Faeces and Urine	..	85
Ice Cream	.. ..	240
Water..	.. ..	88
Food ..	.. ..	8
Other Sanitary	.. ..	40
Bloods.	.. ..	26
		<hr/>
		487

### 2. Hospitals.

Christchurch Hospital - acute and chronic.

The majority of patients from the Borough requiring hospital treatment go to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth.

Cases of infectious disease are treated at Alderney Hospital, Poole.



### 3. Tuberculosis.

The Chest Clinic is held at Christchurch Hospital. The Chest Physician, Dr. Stuart Robertson, holds a joint appointment with the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council. Dr. Robertson is also Director of the Bournemouth Mass Radiography Unit.

A voluntary Care and After Care Committee covers the area served by the Christchurch Clinic i.e. The Boroughs of Christchurch and Lymington, the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, and a small part of New Forest Rural District. The Committee, under the Chairmanship of Lady Manners is widely representative and continues to give extra comforts to a small number of the older chronic type of patient.

### SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL:

#### 1. Ambulance Service.

The area Ambulance Service is run from a main station at "Hillcroft", New Street, Lymington. There are sub-stations at Christchurch and Ringwood, and all ambulances are under wireless control. In order to ensure the effective use of the available vehicles, requests for service are made to the main station - Telephone Lymington 2331 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 12 noon Saturdays. At other times calls are made to a central control at Winchester Telephone Winchester 61644.

#### 2. Nursing Services.

The Nursing and Midwifery Service is administered locally by the District Health Sub-Committee.

Details of Nurses and their areas:-

<u>District served</u>	<u>Name and address</u>	<u>Service</u>
All unattached Midwifery within Christchurch Borough	Miss M. Ellwood, 2, Rothesay Drive, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel. Highcliffe 3426	MIDWIFE

<u>District served</u>	<u>Name and address</u>	<u>Service</u>
Purcell, Mudeford.	Miss E. Mitchell, 17, Stanpit, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 1204	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE
Area West of River Avon, Central Town Area	Mrs. Guthridge, 36, Walcott Avenue, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 729	DISTRICT NURSE
Christchurch south west and north west.	Miss D.H. Powell, 83, The Grove, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 1967	DISTRICT NURSE
Attached to Drs. Carr and Wyatt.	Mrs. Q. Boothby, 50, Hunt Road, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 1091	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE
Christchurch south	Miss K. Ella, 13, Edward Road, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 2225	DISTRICT NURSE
Christchurch	Mrs. E.G. Sprackland, 12, Carisbrooke Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel. Highcliffe 2433	DISTRICT NURSE (part-time relief)
Christchurch	Mrs. W.M.L. Jones, 77, Jumpers Road, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 383	MIDWIFE (part-time relief)
Attached to Dr. Falkner Lee, Dr. Brooks and Dr. Harcourt Webster	Mrs. I. Sherwood, 2, Bracken Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel. Highcliffe 3282	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE
Attached to Dr. Falkner Lee, Dr. Brooks and Dr. Harcourt Webster	Miss K.I. Webb, 280, Lymington Road, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel. Highcliffe 2061	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE HEALTH VISITOR

### Health Visitors.

<u>District served</u>	<u>Name and address</u>
Christchurch West (and attached to Drs. Carr and Wyatt)	Mrs. M.A. Tate, 3, Warren Edge Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth. Tel. Bournemouth 47407
Christchurch East and Mudford (also unattached work in Highcliffe and Walkford).	Miss E.M. Gibbs, 4, Sandy Lane, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 2015
Somerford and Purwell, also geriatric work in area served by Christchurch Hospital	Miss E. Sheldon, 97, The Grove, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 1260
Christchurch Chest Clinic Health Visitor (also unattached work in central Christchurch and Burton).	Mrs. E. Stone, 17, Springfield Avenue, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 269
Walkford area	Miss B. Leadbitter, 36, Fairfield Road, Barton-on-Sea. Tel. New Milton 4744

### 3. Home Help Service.

The Home Help Service is administered locally by the District Health Sub-Committee.

The Divisional Organiser is Mrs. M. Bowler, Druitt Buildings, Christchurch. Telephone Christchurch 900.

#### 4. Child Welfare Clinics.

<u>Child Welfare Centre</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Christchurch	County Council Health Centre Millhams Street	Every Tuesday 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Somerford	Social Centre Southey Road	Every Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.
Highcliffe	St. Mark's Hall	Third Friday in month at 2.30 p.m.

#### 5. School Health Service.

School medical inspections are carried out periodically by Assistant County Medical Officers and Health Visitors.

Minor ailment and special clinics are held at the Millhams Street Health Centre.

#### 6. Smallpox Vaccination.

Treatment is principally carried out by family doctors but is also available at Child Welfare Centres.

Records for children up to the age of 16 are maintained by your Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Vaccination is free but family doctors normally charge for any certificate required.

244 Primary vaccinations and 23 re-vaccinations of children under 16 were reported.



The scheme is administered locally and the records maintained by your Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Treatment is carried out by family doctors and, at Child Welfare Clinics and Schools, by Assistant County Medical Officers.

Immunisations completed under 5 years of age.....	328
" " over 5 " " " .....	<u>25</u>
	353

Proportion of children born in previous  
12 months immunised..... 84%

The scheme is administered locally and the records maintained by your Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Treatment is largely carried out by family doctors. Treatment is also given by Assistant County Medical Officers at Child Welfare Clinics.

Primary Course..... 2



## SCHOOLS:

Secondary Schools remain full with large numbers of children taking advantage of the opportunity for a full five year course, progressing in many cases to further advanced education.

The new extensions to Twynham Secondary School have been completed and alterations are taking place to modernise the original classrooms.

The open air swimming pools at Christchurch Junior, Highcliffe Junior and Twynham Secondary, are fully utilised, and plans for an additional pool for schools in the Somerford area are well advanced.

## WATER:

Christchurch is supplied with water by the West Hampshire Water Company whose works are situated within the Borough. The Company, in addition, supplies part of Bournemouth, the whole of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, part of the New Forest Rural District and part of the Borough of Lymington. Partially treated water in bulk is also pumped to the oil refinery at Fawley.

The raw water is drawn from the River Avon at Christchurch and treated by rapid and slow sand filtration and super chlorination. In addition the Company has a source of supply from deep borcholes in the chalk at Hale Park, some 16 miles north of Christchurch near the Wiltshire border. This supply serves Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District and also supplements the supply in Christchurch.

Raw and treated waters are examined daily at the Company's own water testing laboratory which is in charge of a qualified chemist and bacteriologist. In addition, periodic independent samples are sent to an outside laboratory.

The supply of water to the consumer is constant, of moderate hardness, free from plumbo solvent action, and entirely free from metals.

The Company's records show 10,064 separately assessed domestic dwellings to be supplied from their mains in Christchurch. No standpipes are in use.

A typical result of an examination of the treated water is shown below:-

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received 23.8.65  
from WEST HAMPSHIRE WATER COMPANY

Chemical results in parts per million

Appearance: Bright with a few particles.  
Turbidity(A.P.H.U. units): less than 3.  
Colour (Hazen): 5. Odour: Nil.  
pH: 7.8 Free Carbon Dioxide: 6.  
Electric Conductivity: 420. Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C: 290.  
Reciprocal Megohms cm.  
Chlorine present as Chloride: 18. Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 195.  
Hardness: Total 225. Carbonate: 195. Non-carbonate: 30.  
Nitrate Nitrogen: 2.3 Nitrite Nitrogen: approx. 0.01.  
Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.02 Oxygen absorbed: 0.80.  
Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.05 Residual Chlorine: 0.02.  
Metals: Iron, Zinc, Copper, Lead: absent.

Bacteriological Results.

Number of colonies developing on Agar (1 day at 37°C: 2 days at 37°C: 3 days at 20-22°C:  
0 per ml 0 per ml 1 per ml

	<u>Present in</u>	<u>Absent from</u>	<u>Most probable</u> <u>number</u>
Presumptive Coliform reaction	-ml	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
Bact. coli. (Type 1)	-ml	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
Cl. Welchii reaction	-ml	100 ml	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It is of very satisfactory organic quality and conforms to the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses.

## SEWERAGE:

The Christchurch Works remain overloaded but further improvement in the operation of the digesters was obtained and there was little complaint of nuisance during the year.

Work on the secondary digesters proceeded and the first came into use early in 1966. These extra tanks provide much needed capacity to assist in the operation of the Works while the overloaded conditions prevail. Consultants have prepared plans for the enlargement of the Works and construction is expected to commence late in 1966.

The two year contract for the Jumpers scheme commenced in November.

Draft proposals for Mudeford are in the course of preparation.

A scheme to eliminate a troublesome bottleneck in the sewerage system in the Hinton Wood Avenue-Carisbrooke Way area is also being prepared.

## FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:

Routine supervision of food premises has continued but has been limited by the multiplicity of duties thrust on the existing inspectorial staff by the progressive growth of the town and the deluge of additional legislation over the years. None the less it is felt that the standard of our food premises is good, and relations between traders and the Health Department satisfactory.

## HOUSING:

363 private houses were built during the year as compared with 276 in 1964. In addition, 36 dwellings were constructed for old people by the Christchurch Old People's Welfare and Housing Society. Council construction consisted of 75 houses.

The following details relating to housing accommodation and the current waiting list have been kindly supplied by the Housing Officer - Mrs. M. Clark.



Families housed in Council accommodation: 117

There were 292 applicants on the housing list, made up as follows:-

<u>No. in family</u>	<u>No. of applicants</u>	<u>Total personnel</u>
1	8	8
2	75	150
3	113	339
4	56	224
5	15	75
6	2	12
7	<u>5</u>	<u>35</u>
	274	843

Applications from Revvo Castor Co: 3  
" " Shand Kydd Ltd.: 2

Applicants for Old People's Dwellings

Strete Mount	4
Sydney Road	3
Gordon Mount	6

Applicants on General List

<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>
254	277	259	316	292

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948: SECTION 47:

No action was required under this Section.

GENERAL REMARKS:

The health of the Borough was satisfactory throughout the year.

The normal biennial outbreak of Measles was of less than average severity.

An outbreak of Dysentery, originating in two of our infant schools, was limited by an intensification of normal hygienic precautions.

The estimated mid-year population increased by 630 to 28,630. Deaths exceeded births by 36 as the crude death rate rose from last year's unusually low figure to nearer our recent average.

The birth rate fell for the second successive year, and after correction remained well below the national average.

The infant mortality rate rose from last year's record low figure to nearer our average, and was just below the national average, itself at a record low rate.

The number of lung cancer deaths increased.

The end of the year saw the retirement of Mr. F. le V. Friend, Chief Public Health Inspector to this Council for nearly 25 years. He and I worked together for over 18 years in complete amity and understanding and I wish to pay my tribute to him as a faithful and ultra conscientious Council servant, a loyal colleague and a master of his profession. I wish him health, happiness and tranquility in his retirement.

Mr. Friend has been succeeded by Mr. Clement Willard who came to us from Skegness and whom I welcome to this pleasant Borough.

My sincere thanks are due to colleagues in other departments for their advice and assistance, and above all to the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal co-operation at all times.

D.J.N. McNAB

Medical Officer of Health

June, 1966.





BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

R E P O R T

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

AND

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

FOR THE YEAR

1965

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

OF THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

I have pleasure in presenting to you my first Annual Report covering the work of the Department during the year ending 31st December 1965. It will be noted that Mr. Friend retired at the end of the year after 25 years of service to the Council as its Chief Public Health Inspector and that the work done during this year was under his direction.

With the continuing increase in population and the extra work placed on the Department by further Acts and Regulations, your Inspectors have been under considerable pressure to cope with all the duties involved and it has now reached the stage where it is almost impossible to carry out the work in a satisfactory manner. I find that there has been no increase in the inspectorate staff since 1948 when the population was then just over 18,000. With the population now in the region of 29,000 it is quite obvious that the Council will soon have to give consideration to this matter.

Details of inspections made by your Inspectors are given in Table 1.

#### HOUSING.

This is considered to be the most important aspect of a Public Health Inspector's work, and every local authority has a duty to cause an inspection of its district to be made from time to time with a view to ascertaining whether any house therein is unfit for human habitation.

Repairs were carried out to seven properties at the request of the Department, all of which were dealt with informally.

There appears to have been very little done in the way of routine inspections as required by the Act for some time, and I feel that we should try and give more attention to this part of the work.

## INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Food hygiene continues to occupy a fair amount of your Inspectors' time, but I would like to see an increase in the number of routine inspections made so as to ensure that the generally high standards existing in the Borough are maintained.

## FOOD INSPECTION.

A close liaison exists between the traders and the Department, and food which a trader is doubtful about is set aside and the advice of your Inspectors sought as to its suitability for human consumption. Food which is found to be unfit is disposed of safely and a certificate issued to the trader concerned. The following is a list of food surrendered during the year.

580 lbs	Meat
443 tins	Meat
35 lbs	Bacon
345 lbs	Sausages
21 lbs	Poultry
48 lbs	Fish
28 tins	Fish
134 tins	Vegetables
168 tins	Fruit
4 tins	Fruit Juice
6 tins	Soup
6 jars	Preserves
6 tins	Milk
3 tins	Miscellaneous Foods
2 jars	Miscellaneous Foods
1750 packets	Frozen Foods

## SAMPLING - FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The sampling of food and drugs for adulteration is the responsibility of the County Council. Their Chief Inspector, Mr. J.S. Preston, performs these duties, and I am indebted to him for the following details of samples taken during the year ended 31st March 1966.

"During the year ended 31st March 1966, 76 samples were procured under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, within the Borough of Christchurch.

#### Milk Samples.

58 samples of milk, including 13 of Channel Islands, were taken and these were all satisfactory, there being no instances of adulteration or sub-standard quality.

#### Miscellaneous Samples.

1. A sample of Marzipan proved to contain only 13 per cent of Ground Almonds instead of the minimum of 25 per cent normally found in such a product sold by retail.
2. A sample of what were described as "Lobster Tails" was the subject of protracted correspondence with the packers and further discussions on this uncompleted issue are to take place shortly. It was thought that the product could not properly be described as "lobster" and a name has yet to be found for it.
3. A dressed crab was found to contain 13 per cent of cereal filler, which is considered to be slightly excessive for an article of this type.
4. A steak and kidney pie was found to contain 21 per cent of meat only, whereas 25 per cent is regarded as a reasonable minimum.
5. Another meat pie was found to contain a piece of metal, and legal proceedings were taken against the manufacturer.

#### General.

The usual attention was given to the requirements of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act in connection with their application to the labelling and description of food and drugs. No matters calling for special comment occurred within the District."



## MILK SUPPLY.

Other than a slight increase in the number of persons retailing milk the position is much the same as in the previous year, all milk retailed in the Borough being bottled at establishments outside your district.

The following list shows the number of dairies and persons registered as distributors, and the number and type of licences in force:-

Number of distributors of milk .....	87
Number of dairies on register .....	3
Dealers licensed to use the designation Untreated Milk .....	10
Dealers licensed to use the designation Pasteurised Milk .....	65
Dealers licensed to use the designation Sterilised Milk .....	26

## ICE CREAM.

Once again regular samples of ice cream were taken, and I am pleased to report that these were of a very high standard.

240 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, the results being as follows:-

Grade 1 .....	196
Grade 2 .....	28
Grade 3 .....	12
Grade 4 .....	4

## DRAINAGE.

All new drainage work is carefully supervised and tested by your Inspectors on receipt of notification from the builders, and existing drains are dealt with on complaint.

The number of properties not drained to sewers, and the facilities available are:-

Draining to Septic Tanks .....	97
Draining to Cesspools .....	54
Bucket Latrines .....	26

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 emphasised the need for stricter control of caravan sites and, apart from regular inspections, this Department must be continually on the lookout for the infiltration of caravans on unlicensed sites.

I would be happier if a little more time could be given to this particular part of our duties.

### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The full effects of the Act made itself felt during the year and a good proportion of 'your Inspectors' time has been spent on this.

The increased work imposed by this Act alone has been considerable but, unfortunately, without the appointment of additional staff this has only been done by giving less attention to many of our other duties.

The premises registered at the end of the year were as follows:-

Offices .....	92
Retail Shops .....	237
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses .....	4
Catering Establishments .....	46
Fuel Storage Depots .....	1

Class of workplace and the number of persons employed:-

Offices .....	454
Retail Shops .....	854
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses .....	36
Catering Establishments .....	327
Fuel Storage Depots .....	2

A total of 1,673, of which 960 are females.

### SWIMMING POOLS.

Regular samples were taken of all swimming pools within the area and steps taken where necessary to ensure that they were at all times safe for bathing purposes. 66 samples were taken during the year.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

### (a) Refuse Collection.

Once again the year has proved to be a difficult one. The increase in volume of refuse and the difficulties experienced in obtaining refuse collectors has meant that the service was not as good as we should have liked it to be. At one time the position became so acute that lorries were hired from an outside source to help bring in the refuse.

It is obvious that this situation cannot be allowed to continue, and I am hopeful that 1966 will see a great improvement in the recruitment and retention of staff and a return to a regular weekly collection might be possible, although this cannot be done without incurring additional expenditure.

Towards the end of the year the Council instructed Mr. Friend to carry out a pilot scheme with paper sacks. This is still being experimented with to see if such a system would be worth adopting over the whole of the Borough.

### (b) Refuse Disposal.

Refuse is still being disposed of by controlled tipping on the land at Stanpit Marsh. This land, being waterlogged at all times, has presented many problems and has required a lot of attention from the Chief Public Health Inspector to ensure that no nuisance is caused to people in the neighbourhood.

The fact that very few complaints are received shows that the refuse disposal side is proceeding in a satisfactory manner.

### (c) Transport.

As mentioned in the previous year's Report, at least three of the vehicles are ready for replacement. Two of them are ten years old and one of them is fifteen years old. The latter is about to be traded in for a new Pakamatic and this will, of course, help the situation. Unfortunately, the two Fore and Aft Tippers we have had for ten years and the Carrier Side Loader which we have had for five years, are giving us a considerable amount of trouble. The number of hours lost in breakdowns have been many, and unfortunately I shall not be in a position to have them overhauled until after the summer period of 1966.



It is quite possible that the difficulties we are experiencing with the transport, plus an exceptionally high sickness rate, will be the two factors which will prevent us bringing the refuse collection service up to a satisfactory standard during my first year of office.

#### SALVAGE.

Once again, waste paper has not been baled because of the inability to obtain the services of a suitable baler-man. Waste paper was sold loose and the income from all salvage was increased slightly to reach an income of £683.

A complete reorganisation of this section is in process, coupled with a bonus scheme payable to all the men on the refuse collection and disposal staff. This will result in a considerable increase in income from salvage, and this will be used to pay the men the extra money which is so essential if we are to recruit and maintain a sufficient labour force.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

There can be no let-up in the control of rodents and other pests, and your Rodent Officer spent most of his time on this work. He has also assisted the Inspectors, whenever possible, on various duties connected with the Department.

A summary of the year's work is shown hereunder:-

Number of premises inspected .....	653
Number of premises infested .....	494
Number of dwellings treated .....	447
Number of business premises treated .....	34
Number of agricultural premises treated..	2
Number of local authority premises treated .....	11
TOTAL number of visits .....	2594

In addition to the above, test baits were laid in 124 sewer manholes, none of which was found to be infested.

#### FACTORIES.

There are 113 factories in the Borough, and your Inspectors made 164 visits to these during the year for various purposes.

Regular routine visits are beginning to suffer due to pressure of other work.



GENERAL.

There are many other duties performed by the Department, all of which cannot possibly be mentioned in a report of this nature, but these, and in particular complaints of all descriptions, are keeping your Inspectors at full stretch in an effort to satisfy the demands of the ratepayers.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health, fellow officials in all Departments and members of the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal support and co-operation.

CLEMENT WILLARD

Chief Public Health Inspector  
and Cleansing Superintendent.

"Stour Cottage",  
20 Barrack Road,  
Christchurch.

August 1966.

# T A B L E 1.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Housing Visits .....	432
Housing Overcrowding .....	8
Drainage Visits .....	2076
Nuisances .....	570
Unsound Food .....	139
Food Premises .....	182
Food Poisoning .....	2
Ice Cream .....	87
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops .....	45
Ice Cream Samples .....	247
Ice Cream Server Rinse Water .....	19
Infectious Diseases .....	78
Verminous Premises .....	19
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act .....	1359
Factories .....	154
Outworkers .....	106
School Canteens .....	8
Public Conveniences .....	46
Vans, Tents, Etc. ....	15
Camping Sites .....	43
Shops (Shops Act) .....	102
Defective Refuse Bins .....	199
Refuse Collection and Disposal .....	317
Refuse - Paper Sacks .....	3111
Salvage .....	40
Rodent Control .....	2594
Closet Accommodation .....	21
Pet Animals Act .....	3
Rivers and Streams .....	1
Water Samples .....	2
Swimming Bath Samples .....	49
Places of entertainment inspected .....	2
Septic Tanks and Cesspools .....	47
Scrap Metal Dealers .....	2
Street Traders .....	1
Unclassified .....	133

## T A B L E 2.

### RECORD OF NUISANCES ABATED AND WORK DONE.

The following statement shows in detail work carried out under the supervision of the Department.

#### (a) Drainage.

Number of new buildings drained .....	167
Number of houses and premises redrained .....	3
Repairs or amendments to existing drains .....	12
Drains or gullies unstopped and cleansed .....	11
Length in yards stoneware drains laid .....	13012
Manholes and covers provided .....	1391
Intercepting traps fixed .....	9
New gully traps fixed .....	668
Soil pipes and vent shafts fixed .....	209
Soil pipes and vent shafts repaired .....	5
Water tests applied .....	744
Smoke tests applied .....	128
Colour tests applied .....	1
Cesspools abolished and drains connected to sewer .....	1
Cesspools emptied .....	4
Cesspools constructed .....	5

#### (b) Sanitary Conveniences and Fittings.

New W.C. accommodation provided .....	72
New W.C. apartments provided .....	72
New W.C. pedestals provided .....	73
W.C.'s cleansed and repaired .....	4
New flushing cisterns provided .....	73
Flushing cisterns repaired .....	1
Baths provided .....	65
Sinks provided .....	66
New waste pipes trapped .....	207
Lavatory basins provided .....	73

T A B L E 2.      (continued)

(c) Miscellaneous.

Roofs repaired .....	3
Eaves gutters and downpipes renewed or repaired .....	2
Yards paved .....	1
Damp walls remedied .....	4
Windows repaired or renewed .....	2
Rooms cleansed and redecorated .....	11
Doors repaired or renewed .....	1
Dustbins provided .....	75
Nuisance - smoke and fumes .....	5
Nuisance - accumulation of manure or refuse .....	6
Rooms disinfected .....	5
Clothing disinfected .....	1
Premises disinfested .....	9
Chimney stacks repaired/repointed .....	1
Fireplaces repaired/renewed .....	1
Ventilated food stores provided .....	4



T A B L E 3.  
COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

During the year complaints were received as detailed below:-

Rats and Mice .....	330
Food .....	81
Defective dustbin or absence of .....	80
Smells .....	9
Choked drains .....	3
Defective chimney stack .....	1
Dampness .....	4
Defective guttering or roof .....	7
General defects .....	1
Fleas and bugs .....	2
Accumulation of refuse .....	4
Nuisance from smoke or fumes .....	9
Nuisance from noise .....	6
Nuisance from animals, poultry or birds .....	1
Insanitary conditions .....	1
Defective windows and doors .....	1
Miscellaneous .....	2

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED.

Table 4 shows the action taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions prejudicial to health.

T A B L E 4.

Number of Notices Served.

NOTICES	OUTSTANDING 31.12.64.	NUMBER SERVED	COMPLIED WITH	WORK DONE BY L.A. IN DEFAULT	OUTSTANDING 31.12.65.
Informal	1	11	7	-	5
Statutory	2	1	3	-	-
TOTAL:	3	12	10	-	5

SUMMARY OF STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED:-

Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936	.....	-
Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936	.....	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1965 FOR

THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the  
Factories Act, 1937.

PART I of the ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as  
to health (including inspections made by Public  
Health Inspectors).

PREMISES:	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	9	-	-
(2) Factories not in- cluded in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	105	155	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL .....	113	164	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted:
	Found	Remedied	Referred:		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient . . .	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2	-	-	-
TOTAL . . . .	10	10	-	1	-



PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

NATURE OF WORK	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (C)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecut- ions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel	6	-	-	-	1	1
Plastics - Fancy Goods	21	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL .....	27	-	-	-	1	1

